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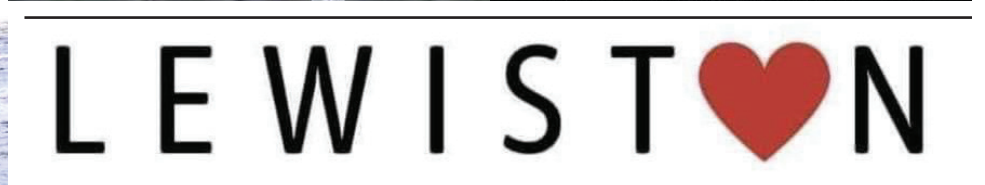
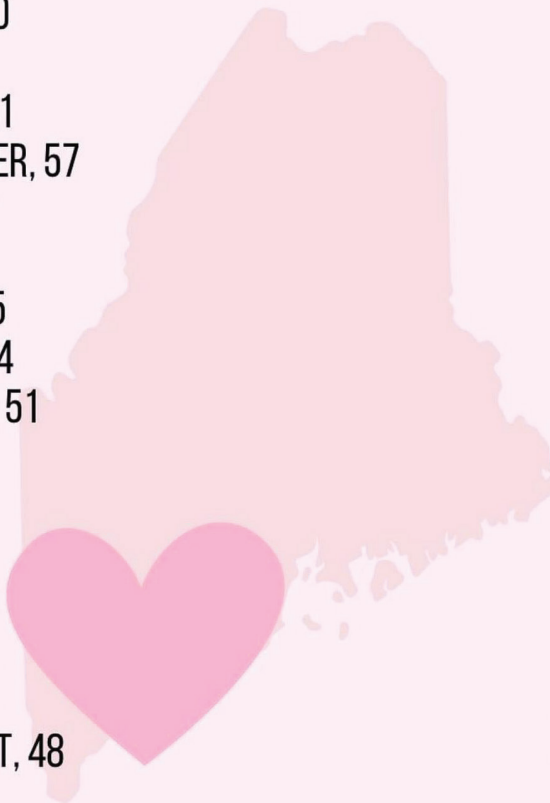
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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## King: “Enormous problem” of VA workforce shortages

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a hearing of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC), U.S. Senator Angus King expressed the urgent need for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to find pragmatic, workable solutions in order to keep VA facilities properly staffed, fully open, and industry-competitive. He questioned Tracey Therit, the Chief Human Capital Officer within the VA, about the direct effect that bureaucratic hiring processes and lack of staff can have on veterans seeking care.

“We’re turning away and losing veterans because of lack of staff. It’s an enormous problem. I understand it’s a problem throughout the society. Every business that I talk to is short of staff. But I want to talk about the staffing problem in the VA, and that’s where you might be able help us. There are two issues that I’ve iden-

tified. One is pay and the other is red tape. Let’s talk about pay for a minute... but of the time to fill [job openings], the lowest are generally urban areas and the highest are rural areas. Now, this is a small sample, but I’d like you to do this analysis on a broader sample and see if I’m correct. But I believe that you’ll find that rural areas are having a harder time,” began Senator King. “The time to fill in Maine is 251 days. In White River Junction, it’s 261 days. In Providence, it’s 127. I think that’s where we get to the pay part. The difference in pay between different areas of the country, I think, is obsolete because people can work anywhere. You can now live in rural Maine and work remotely for the VA in Boston. Why would you go to work for the VA in Togus, Maine at a 15-percent or 20-percent pay cut if you can work remotely in Boston? Do you

see what I mean? We’re hurting the competitiveness of our rural VA facilities. So, I think we should really have a rethinking of the pay differential, which is based on times you didn’t have remote working, people weren’t as mobile. This is national competition for professionals. Ms. Therit, you’ve nodded a few times. What do you think?”

“So, I think Mr. Perry and I may join forces on answering this question. I agree. I think the authorities that we have in the Pact Act have helped us to level some of those gaps or close some of those gaps that you’ve talked about between urban and rural because we’re able to offer more incentives to those rural facilities,” replied Tracey Therit.

“But I know that Togus is not competitive with Boston or New Bedford or Providence,” replied Senator King.

“We still have a long way to go. And then working with organizations like the Federal Salary Council and the Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee, that’s where I’m trying to spearhead some of these efforts at a broader level. I know Mr. Perry’s team is working on one deliverable that we still owe the committee from the Pact Act, which is the Rural Recruitment and Retention Plan, where we can put more effort into reducing the red tape that you’re seeing,” said Therit.

“I haven’t gotten to that yet. Yeah, but look at the pay issue. I mean, I believe that the whole idea of differential pay in different regions based on cost of living is somewhat obsolete because when you’re competing for a healthcare professional, they have nationwide choices, and to have a significant disadvantage in pay...I don’t think it’s any coincidence that White

River and Togus are the ones that are lagging here, because they both have really good management. I know the people at Togus. They’re terrific. So, it’s not a management issue. It’s that they’ve got to compete, and they have to compete with local hospitals. That’s a real problem. To hire a professional at Togus or Wright River is around 250 days’ time to fill. At our Northern Light Healthcare Facility, which is in the same region in northern and eastern Maine, it’s 56 days. Maine Health, it’s about 89 or 90 days, but significantly below. And yet that’s who we’re competing with. We have to really think hard about all the steps, and here’s one of them. My understanding and my research tells me that there’s something like 24 steps to hire somebody in the VA, and at Northern Light, it’s seven. We’ve got to rethink that, it seems to me, because, again, we’re

in a competitive situation,” concluded Senator King.

A member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, Senator King is committed to ensuring veterans and their families receive their earned benefits and support from the VA. Most recently, he led a letter asking the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to find workable solutions to staffing long term veteran care. Senator King has repeatedly pressed the VA on the need to hire and retain more staff in order to meet the demand for veteran care. Senator King also spearheaded the passage of legislation to better track and study servicemember suicides by job assignment. Senator King has also worked to properly honor and recognize the sacrifices of Purple Heart medal recipients, protect veterans from fraud, and expand veteran assisted living services.

## November is National Alzheimer’s Awareness Month

NEW YORK -- Memory screenings are an important part of a good health and wellness routine for all of us. As part of National Alzheimer’s Awareness Month this November, the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America (AFA) is reminding everyone to prioritize their brain health and get a memory screening. AFA offers free memory screenings every weekday through its National Memory Screening Program, with no minimum age or insurance prerequisites, through secure videoconference technology. Individuals can learn more or request a screening appointment by contacting AFA at 866-232-8484.

“Annual screenings are important, including for our brains, which is

why everyone should make getting a memory screening a priority during Alzheimer’s Awareness Month and throughout the year,” said Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr., AFA’s President & CEO. “Just as we regularly check other facets of our health, we should all get a checkup from the neck up, regardless of whether or not we are having memory problems.”

“You are never too young or too old to get a memory screening and be more proactive about your brain health,” said Donna de Levante Raphael, Director of AFA’s National Memory Screening Program. “Many people don’t think about their cognitive health when they get their regular medical checkups. If you are 65 years or old-



er, a memory screening is a part of your Medicare Annual Wellness Visit. It is very important to make sure you keep your mind sharp, and there are many ways to do that in order to combat cognitive decline. I always remind people that the first step is to get a screening to see if there might be any memory issues. It is better to know early rather than later.”

Alzheimer’s disease currently affects more than 6.2 million Americans, and the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that number will more than double by 2060.

Memory screenings are an important first step toward early detection of memory issues. Screenings take just a few minutes and are noninvasive, consisting of a series of questions to gauge memory, language, thinking skills and other intellectual functions. Results are not a diagnosis of any particular condition, but a memory screening can suggest if someone

should see a physician for a full evaluation.

People experiencing memory loss or cognitive decline may be reluctant, embarrassed or in denial about seeking help, but early detection of memory issues is essential. If the memory issues are caused by Alzheimer’s disease, early detection affords greater opportunities to begin medications sooner to slow the progression of disease symptoms, participate in a clinical trial, take advantage of therapeutic programming, and have an active role in developing your care, health, legal and financial plans.

Just as important, not all memory issues are caused by Alzheimer’s disease. Vitamin deficiencies, thyroid problems, urinary

tract infections, sleep apnea, and depression are examples of conditions that can cause memory impairments—and all are treatable or curable—but you can’t address them if you aren’t aware that they exist.

To schedule a free virtual memory screening appointment, or for more information about brain health and lifestyle choices that can help promote healthy aging, visit AFA’s website at [www.alzfdn.org](http://www.alzfdn.org) or call AFA’s Helpline at 866-232-8484 (open seven days a week).

Send all items for What’s Going On to the Editor. Deadline is Friday by five.



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# Newsmakers, Names & Faces

## 2023 John Jenkins Award to be presented

**AUBURN, ME** – Auburn Mayor Jason J. Levesque presented the third annual John Jenkins “Hands & Hearts Leadership & Service Award” during the special city council meeting Monday, October 23. This distinguished community service award was established by Mayor Levesque in honor of Auburn Mayor John

Jenkins, who passed away in 2020.

Each year, this prestigious award recognizes an Auburn resident, group, or organization for their significant impact on the quality of life in our great city. Like former Mayor Jenkins, recipients of this notable award demonstrate one or more of the following qualities:

- Significant and meaningful service to the community
- Exceptional commitment to volunteerism
- Unselfish leadership and collaboration
- Creativity, cooperation, and hard work in service to others as a role model, especially youth and

Exemplary leadership in civic activities

The inaugural Hands & Hearts Award was presented in 2021 to Auburn’s Deputy Fire Chief Matthew Fifield. The 2022 award was presented to Edward Little High School Coach Mike Adams.

This year’s recipient is a much-loved member of our community, and like

John Jenkins himself, he has been a mentor, a coach, and a loyal friend. Dan Campbell is a longtime high school running/track coach, and a former drug abuse counselor. Most recently, Dan has been pouring his heart and soul into the local homeless community, providing rides, food, supplies, and on nights of bad weather, a free night

in a hotel to stay dry. He is also in the fight of his life against cancer.

Auburn’s 2023 Jenkins Award recipient embodies the qualities of service, integrity, inspiration, hard work, and commitment. He cares deeply for the people of our community, and the City of Auburn is honored to celebrate and recognize Dan Campbell.

## Franco Center bringing back its holiday pie sale

**LEWISTON, ME**—Head chef John Pulsifer has returned to the Franco Center just in time to bring back the holiday pie sale. The menu lists 37 different pies, all made from scratch by Chef John, including the standard crust made with vegetable shortening, butter, flour, and salt. The holiday pie sale has started, and orders are being taken by Franco Center staff.

The fillings are made from scratch, too, according to Chef John. “It’s fresh frozen fruit in the fruit-pie fillings. The Forest Fruit pie is a blend of apple, rhubarb, raspberry, and blueberry, all fresh frozen,” he said.

Not all of the pies for sale are considered dessert pies. Tourtière is well

known among the Franco-American community as a holiday pie. Chef John uses his grandmother’s recipe. “It’s the traditional pork pie with a few changes that take into consideration the changes in food availability over the years since my grandmother went shopping,” he said. “Other favorite non-dessert pies on the menu are salmon and chicken. The salmon pie is made with fresh salmon, not canned.”

Chef John is local, having grown up in Mechanic Falls, and having graduated from both Edward Little High School and Central Maine Vocational Technical Institute. He’s taught culinary arts at Central Maine Community College, his alma mater. He has been well known as a chef and bak-



John Pulsifer stands near trays of fruit pies hot from the oven that were baked for the Franco Center’s Oct. 14 bean supper. He has over 55 years of experience baking pies and will bake the pre-ordered pies for the holiday pie sale. Pies must be ordered by Nov. 16 with pick-up dates on Nov. 21 and 22. To order, call the Franco Center at 207-689-2000 or visit the 46 Cedar St. Lewiston venue. The order form can be viewed and downloaded at [www.francocenter.org/pies](http://www.francocenter.org/pies). Franco Center photo.

er among Lewiston and Auburn restaurants over the last 55 years. Some of those restaurants include Eddie’s Diner, the Village Inn, and Eith’s Bakery. Restaurants he has owned and operated include Red’s Pizza in Mechanic Falls and Eggs-cetera in Poland. He has been a baker and head chef at Camp Fernwood Summer Camp for Girls on Lake Thompson in Poland since 1972.

“Of course, the usual holiday pies such as pumpkin, pecan, and chocolate cream are on the menu,” said Chef John. “The adventurous might want to try the Grass Hopper or Maple Sucre. I also make a Grape Crumb pie that is absolutely delicious.”

Pies can be purchased by calling 207-

689-2000 or in person during box office hours between 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. View the pie menu order form at [www.francocenter.org/pies](http://www.francocenter.org/pies).

The 10-inch pies are all made to order and \$20 each. Orders must be received by Thursday, Nov. 16. Extra pies may not be available. Pies can be picked up between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21 or Wednesday, Nov. 22, “freshly made and just in time for your Thanksgiving meal,” said Pulsifer.

The Franco Center is at 46 Cedar Street in Lewiston. Parking is in the mill lot across the street. For those who want to use the elevator, park on the Lincoln St. Alley side of the building and take the elevator to the Lower Lobby.

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## Seniors Not Acting Their Age

# Riding the Narrow Gauge

One of the most unique bike trails in Maine is the historic Narrow Gauge Pathway in Carrabassett Valley. The trail follows the former Kingfield and Dead River Railroad bed used to convey logs to a sawmill situated in Bigelow at the northern terminus of the railway in the early 20th century. Disuse resulted in discontinuance of the railroad in 1927. The Town of Carrabassett Valley constructed the pathway in 2001.

Serene and scenic describe the bucolic crushed-stone and dirt surface trail as it travels next to the boulder-strewn Carrabassett River located in a deep valley situated between Sugarloaf Mountain and the Bigelow Mountain

Range. Wide hybrid or mountain bike tires are necessary to ensure an enjoyable ride on the unpaved surface. Motorized vehicles including ATVs and snowmobiles are prohibited. The trail is also groomed for cross-country skiing in winter.

My wife, Nancy, and I try to ride the Narrow Gauge each fall and recently planned our annual return. We started our trek at the Airport Trailhead on a cool breezy autumn day. Located adjacent to a small airport about a mile north of the Carrabassett Valley Town Office, there is spacious parking and a restroom.

We began the ride on a short rough, multi-use connector trail that soon traverses the Carra-

bassett River on a sturdy well-designed bridge to a sign that announces the beginning of the Narrow Gauge Pathway. Immediately crossing a short bridge over Houston Brook, we began climbing gradually in forested terrain. Sheltered from the wind by a canopy of overhanging trees, our ride was comfortable throughout. While never steep, the path rises steadily for much of the remainder of the trek to the northern end in Bigelow.

After leaving the Carrabassett River, we persevered uphill for a short mile past a Maine Huts Trail junction on the right. The path rejoins the mountain freshet overlooking the steepest part of the river. My paddling friends and I refer to the precipitous section of whitewater as Upper Carrabassett. Memories of previous whitewater descents were a distraction as we passed the most difficult rapids called Pinnacle Rock, Don's Hole, Terry's Perch, and Triple Drop.

River views coupled with lush vegeta-

tion in this area provide an exceptionally scenic environment. Picnic tables are scattered strategically along this sector of trail. Most were occupied by cyclists taking a break or enjoying a snack.

Shortly after the last picnic table, the path leaves the river and crosses a long bridge over a wetlands area where we observed a moose feeding close to the path. We lingered to watch the voracious cow moose that seemed unperturbed by our presence.

We soon passed an ancient cabin on the left where the path briefly reconnects with the river. A hunting and fishing camp built by railroad workers in 1900; the hut is privately owned and still in use. This area was formerly called Crockertown, named for early lumberman Isaac Crocker.

Proceeding westerly, we passed a left turn that leads to Campbell Field Trailhead and another junction on the right that links to Stratton Brook Hut. A sign indicates the hut is 2.2 miles east.

We reached the outskirts of the old village of Bigelow soon after. The tiny community is posted as private property. The former Bigelow Train Depot is situated near Route 27 and is now a private residence.

Angling left, we continued over a bridge and past a side trail on the right that leads to the Stratton Brook Trailhead. Just beyond, the Narrow Gauge Pathway ends at Route 27. There is no parking at this location. On return, we followed the .1 mile spur to Stratton Brook Trailhead. More difficult than the pathway, the approach to the parking area is steep and rocky.

After returning to the Campbell Field turn-off, a brief ride brought us to that alternative trailhead where there is a picnic table, restroom,



The boulder-strewn Carrabassett River parallels the Narrow Gauge Pathway in many places



A cyclist begins a ride north on the Narrow Gauge Pathway



A moose was observed feeding along the trail on this ride

and ample parking. After a lunch break, we cycled back to the Airport Trailhead completing an exceptional 11.25 mile roundtrip that included the short excursions to the Stratton Brook and Campbell Field Trailheads.

The return is almost all downhill. What a treat for two senior cyclists in a biking paradise!

My book, *Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine* narrates exciting rides on four more bike trails and three offshore islands.

Ron Chase resides in Topsham. His latest book, *"Maine Al Fresco: The Fifty Finest Outdoor Adventures in Maine"* is available at [www.northcountrypress.com](http://www.northcountrypress.com)

*com/maine-al-fresco* or in bookstores and through online retailers. His previous books are *"The Great Mars Hill Bank Robbery"* and *"Mountains for Mortals - New England."* Visit his website at [www.ronchaseoutdoors.com](http://www.ronchaseoutdoors.com) or he can be reached at [ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net](mailto:ronchaseoutdoors@comcast.net)

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# Turkey Trot 4 Hope returns on Thanksgiving Day

**NORWAY** -- The sixth annual Turkey Trot 4 Hope Scenic 4 Mile Run or 1 Mile Run/Walk will be held Thanksgiving Day, November 23rd, at 9am at the Norway Fire Station, 19 Danforth Street, Norway. Our many sponsors this year have guaranteed that this will be a great event to benefit the Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine (CRCofWM). This is indeed a day of THANKS where individuals, teams, businesses, and community can support the work that the CRCofWM does throughout the

western Maine region.

You can register individually or as a team at [raceroster.com/78857](http://raceroster.com/78857). All Oxford county Maine students K-12 can register for FREE, thanks to a very generous donor. Awards will be given out starting at 10am so participants can get to their Thanksgiving celebrations.

If you are away for Thanksgiving or do not live locally we encourage anyone to join in the fun VIRTUALLY to support the CRCofWM. Your route can be a favorite trail, a walk with your dog, a dai-

ly running route, or even a treadmill. If you run virtually, we would love to see where you chose to participate by posting on our Facebook page or #turkey-trot4hope.

"This is the signature fundraising event for Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine and this year we hope to have many more participants actively fundraising," commented Caleb Grover, 2023 Turkey Trot 4 Hope Committee Chair. "We challenge each Turkey Trot 4 Hope participant to help us raise much needed funds to

support people in western Maine affected by cancer."

CRCofWM's mission is to embrace anyone affected by cancer in a community that offers hope and caring through support, education and concepts in healthy living. CRCofWM offer one to one support, free wellness programs and classes, support groups, travel and food assistance, and comfort items to anyone impacted by cancer...because no one should face cancer alone. For more information [www.crcofwm.org](http://www.crcofwm.org) or 207-890-0329.



The 6th Annual Turkey Trot 4 Hope will be held in-person and virtually this year. All proceeds benefit the Cancer Resource Center of Western Maine. Visit [raceroster.com/78857](http://raceroster.com/78857) to register.

# Racial Justice Fund seeks applications for grants

**AUGUSTA, ME** – The Maine Justice Foundation is pleased to announce the third round of grants from the Racial Justice Fund. The Foundation will accept applications for grants of up to \$10,000 from October 23-November 6, 2023. The grant guidelines and application form can be found online at [www.justicemaine.org](http://www.justicemaine.org).

The Racial Justice Fund supports education and advocacy aimed at achieving racial justice and addressing systemic racism. The Fund supports Black, Indigenous, and People of Color by forging social, systemic, and economic solutions to combat racism in Maine. Grants from the Fund will be made to qualified organizations for programs to advance racial justice throughout

Maine, at every level of society, including but not limited to the legal system, healthcare, education, the workplace, food insecurity, natural resources, and housing. Applicants must be Maine-based and must demonstrate the involvement and participation of Maine residents who are Black, Indigenous or People of Color.

In the wake of racially motivated murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor among others in early 2020, corporations and philanthropic leaders across Maine joined forces to raise an initial \$270,000 to launch the Racial Justice Fund of the Maine Justice Foundation to combat racial injustice and inequity throughout the state. The Fund to date has issued



13 grants to organizations including the Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center, Healthy Acadia – Downeast Diversity, League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund, Maine Inside Out, Sunlight Media Collective, The Third Place, Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project, In Her Presence, Indigo Arts Alliance, Ladder to the Moon Network, and Mindbridge. Since launching the Fund in 2020, the Foundation has been ac-

tively engaged in fundraising and the Fund now stands at over \$791,000. With racially motivated violence still topping the headlines almost daily, our work is far from done. The Foundation continues to seek donations to fund programs that address systemic racism and inequities throughout our communities.

"The Maine Justice Foundation has worked to ensure access to justice for all Mainers for over

40 years," said Michelle Draeger, Executive Director. "The Racial Justice Fund demonstrates our conscious commitment to this ideal for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) community members who may be deprived of equitable treatment or suffer the effects of systemic racism because they are BIPOC. All of our grantees to date have successfully launched programs that support diversity and address racial inequities across Maine. This critically important work supports BIPOC communities and engenders understanding of systemic inequities so we can all participate in solutions."

The Fund's Advisory Committee has formulated the specific goals for grantmaking, issued the

inaugural and current requests for proposals and will recommend grants. The current members are co-chairs Prof. Marcelle Medford and Dr. Evelyn Silver, Mary Herman, Reginald Parson, Francys Perkins, Bill Harwood, Janis Cohen, and Shelly Anarado Okere.

For a full description of the Racial Justice Fund and the Advisory Committee, please visit <https://www.justicemaine.org/grants-and-programs/racial-justice-fund/>.

The Maine Justice Foundation, founded in 1983 as the Maine Bar Foundation, is the state's leading funder of civil legal aid for poor and vulnerable Mainers. Find us online and support the Racial Justice Fund at [www.justicemaine.org](http://www.justicemaine.org).

# Free access to crisis line support for Mainers

**SOUTH PORTLAND, ME** – In response to the recent shooting in Lewiston, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield and its behavioral health partner, Caredon Behavioral Health, are offering all Mainers free access to crisis support, regardless of

whether they are Anthem members.

Any Mainer needing assistance can speak to a behavioral health professional via phone by calling 1-800-580-6934. The crisis support line is confidential and available 24/7 at no cost.



"On behalf of our entire team at Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Maine, we are heartbroken by last night's event in Lewiston and are committed to helping our commu-

nity heal in the wake of this tragedy," said Denise McDonough, president of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Maine. "We hope that by providing free crisis support to anyone in need,

we can support our neighbors and our community during this difficult time."

"Our crisis support line is here and ready to help since we know that mass violence and shootings affect people in many different ways," said Dr. James Polo, chief medical

officer for Caredon Behavioral Health. "It's important to share your concerns and monitor your mental health during these extremely difficult circumstances. A phone call can often lessen anxiety, fear and channel our emotional response within times of crisis."



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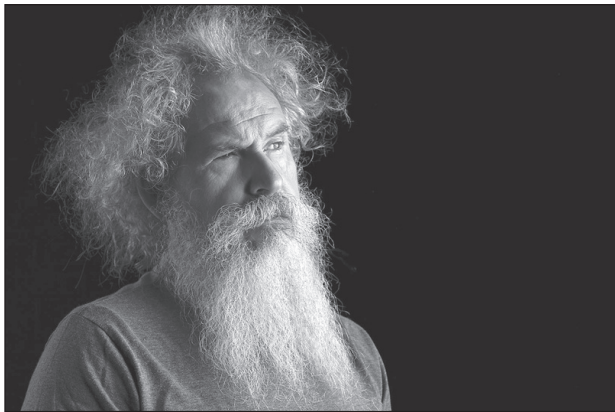


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# Arts & Entertainment

## Bricks & Bridges Comedy Fest returns to Lewiston-Auburn



Rodney Norman

**LEWISTON, ME** -- The Bricks & Bridges Comedy Fest brings four nights of laughter to Lewiston-Auburn on Nov. 8-11. The event will feature 40 comedians, from local favorites to national headliners, a comedy con-

test, an adult spelling bee, and a few surprises. "The festival is a celebration of laughter in Lewiston-Auburn," said co-producers Mark Turcotte and Ann-Marie Keene. "We're excited to bring such a wide vari-

ety of entertainment and showcase the growing comedy scene in the twin cities."

Wednesday's show will take place at Rusty Bus Brewing and feature the Highway to Spell adult spelling bee followed by a showcase of stand-up superstars.

The Fest moves to the Franco Center's Heritage Hall for the remaining three nights.

The Tightest Five comedy contest preliminary round kicks off Thursday's show with 12 comedians performing their best five minutes of original material. The winner will earn a coveted televised spot on The Nite Show

with Danny Cashman.

Comedian, philosopher, and joy sparker Rodney Norman headlines Friday's show. The Purveyor of Positivity won the 2008 Rhode Island Comedy Festival, was featured in the Boston Comedy Festival, and has recorded multiple Dry Bar Comedy specials. The night will also feature The Tightest Five semifinals.

The Fest finale on Saturday features national headliner, improviser, and comedic actress Kelly MacFarland. Kelly has appeared on NBC's Last Comic Standing, Comedy Central, The View, and The Today Show. In 2019, she performed for a packed TD



Kelly MacFarland

Garden at Comics Come Home, a fundraiser for the Cam Neely Foundation. The night will also include The Tightest Five finals.

Bricks & Bridges has partnered with Lewiston-based Greater Androscoggin Humane Society

and will collect supply and monetary donations at each show to benefit the shelter, which promotes a safe and humane life for all animals.

More information is available at [bricksandbridges.me](http://bricksandbridges.me)

## Geologist to speak at Stanton Bird Club lecture

**AUBURN, ME** -- On November 6th, the Stanton Bird Club will be hosting the first in its 2023-24 lecture series with Amber Whittaker, Senior Geologist with the Maine Geo-

logical Survey (MGS). Prior to returning to her home state of Maine in 2016, Amber's career encompassed both industry and graduate work in diverse locales such as New Mex-

ico and New Zealand. Her professional journey has taken her across the globe, including Maine, the desert Southwest, the European Alps, the Southern Alps, and Antarctica, where she

engaged in extensive geological lab and fieldwork. At present, her primary responsibilities involve conducting bedrock mapping and creating bedrock geologic maps for publication. In addition to her mapping endeavors, Amber collaborates closely with academic institutions and state and federal agencies on grant-funded projects and the publication of peer-reviewed articles. This talk will explore the amazing diversity of Maine's geologic landscape and discuss how the natural features were developed from 700 million years ago to the present day. We will briefly look at the tools that scientists use to study the earth and projects that



Amber Whittaker (photo supplied by speaker)

are currently underway in Maine.

The talk will be held on Monday, November 6th from 4-6pm at the Auburn

Public Library. The public is welcome. The lecture series is free of charge.

The Stanton Bird Club, a leader in environmental awareness, owns and manages the Thorncrag Nature Sanctuary in Lewiston as well as the Woodbury Nature Sanctuary in Monmouth and Litchfield. More information about other activities of the Club can be found at [www.StantonBirdClub.org](http://www.StantonBirdClub.org) and on its Facebook page.

Send all items for What's Going On to the Editor. Deadline is Friday by five.

**MY WITCH**  
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# KeyBank supports Girl Scouts of Maine

STATEWIDE – Girl Scouts of Maine (GSME) is pleased to announce KeyBank as the premiere sponsor of their upcoming annual Transforming Leadership Conference on November 4, at the University of Maine in Orono.

This 15th annual GSME event is an opportunity for Girl Scout members and non-members to come together, broaden connections, gain leadership skills, and engage in personal development through hands-on 60-min-



ute workshops led by experts. Topics of these workshops include STEM, financial literacy, self-care, global issues, leadership styles, and so much more.

“Today’s students are tomorrow’s business and community leaders, and KeyBank believes in supporting programs that help students grow to become successful, contributing community members,”

says KeyBank Business Banking Relationship Manager Joseph McLean, who works closely with Girl Scouts of Maine. “The ability to make sound financial decisions is a skill that all young people need, and we are proud to help bring that education to conference attendees through our sponsorship”.

KeyBank’s Key@ Work Relationship Man-



wavering support of the Transforming Leadership Conference, and their particular commitment to furthering knowledge of financial literacy, one of the most important facets of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience,” says Elizabeth Helton, GSME Highest Awards and Teen Experience Program Specialist.

ager Sarah Brooks will be leading two workshops during the event, “Facilitating Financial Literacy” and “Money Explorers & Budget Builders.” During both workshops, adult and

youth attendees will have the opportunity to build their financial understanding and money management skills.

“We are so grateful to KeyBank for their un-

To learn more about exciting workshops from KeyBank and others at the upcoming conference, visit the GSME Transforming Leadership web page.

# Maine DHHS provides mental health support

AUGUSTA, ME— The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) encourages anyone affected by the violence in Lewiston to reach out and connect with behavioral health support. Incidents of mass violence can lead to a range of emotional reactions, including anxiety, fear, anger, despair, and a sense of helplessness that may begin immediately or in the days or weeks following the event.

Seek help immedi-

ately if you or someone you know is talking about suicide, feelings of hopelessness or unbearable pain, or about being a burden to others.

If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 911.

For those in need of immediate support:

Call or text 988: This suicide and behavioral health crisis hotline is answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week by trained crisis specialists offering free, confidential

support for anyone. Specialists also can respond by chat at 988lifeline.org.

Teens and young adults can text (207) 515-8398: The National Alliance on Mental Illness Teen Text Line connects youth with other youth to help them manage their challenges every day from noon to 10 p.m.

Clinicians, educators and first responders can call 1-800-769-9819: The FrontLine WarmLine offers free support services to help these profes-

sionals manage the stress of responding to disasters from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.

If you’re unsure, contact 211. It provides general information, including how to access behavioral health and social service resources, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Information can also be found at 211maine.org.

All of these resources provide free, confidential support.

Maine DHHS has

created a dedicated webpage with these and other resources, including online support and resources for children and families.

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services, with partners throughout the Mills Administration and the state, stands ready to assist people and communities in responding to and recovering from this horrific event.

Information about the law enforcement investigation is available

through the Maine Department of Public Safety.

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# Battle of the Blends returns for its XXVIII season!



MMS Chamber Singers

**LEWISTON, ME --** The Maine Music Society is happy to announce that it will once again host this ever-popular a cappella experience on Saturday, November 4, 2023, at 7:00 pm at the Franco Center, 46 Cedar Street, Lewiston.

With MMS's own Artistic Director, Dr. Richard Nickerson, as emcee, this always sold-out event will feature spectacular groups raising their voices in exuberant renditions of jazz, barbershop, rock'n'roll, spiritual and renaissance vocal music.

The Maine Music Society Chamber Singers, a division of the MMS Chorale, was formed in 2013 and serves as an outreach organization that shares its passion for singing with the greater Lewiston-Auburn community.

The group has performed at various public events including the Lewiston Tree Lighting ceremony and Governor Mills inaugural celebration, and as part of several local concert series. Their repertoire includes early motets, folk songs, modern art and pop songs.

The Royal River Chorus (RRC) is an acclaimed a cappella chorus whose members live in southern and mid-coast Maine. They are part of a vibrant and diverse global community of Sweet Adelines International (SAI) singers that embraces musical excellence while fostering a worldwide and inclusive culture of belonging.

Folks of all ages enjoy hearing everything from familiar "golden oldies," to challenging con-



Royal River Chorus

temporary music. When not competing, RRC entertains as often as they can in surrounding towns at festivals and fairs, concert series, community gatherings, nonprofit events and more.

In particular, they are an annual favorite at the Yarmouth Clam Festival.

New to Battle, Acapetal is the mixed a cappella group at Brunswick High School which was founded by current senior, Sam Caswell, in the fall of 2021. This multi-grade group of singers is student run by co-directors Sam Caswell (senior) and Coco Mangalam (sophomore). They meet bright and ear-

ly every Friday morning to make cool music and are thrilled to share that music with the world! You won't want to miss their energetic musical renditions.

The Bates College Deansmen is Bates' oldest all male and non-binary identifying a cappella group. They perform songs of many different genres from old school crooning to modern hits, and are about to release new recordings of some classic Deansmen songs to their Spotify. They hope you enjoy their set!

What a line-up! Make plans to attend this enthusiastic roof-raising celebration of music and purchase your tickets early. You don't want to miss this incredible concert.

Tickets are now available. This concert is a major fundraiser for MMS so your support is greatly appreciated!

Visit [www.mainemusicsociety.org](http://www.mainemusicsociety.org) or call our business office at 207-333-3386.

The Maine Music



Acapetal



Bates College Deansmen

Society thanks our Season Sponsor Hardy, Wolf & Downing, the Event Sponsor Maple Way Dental Care and Co-Sponsors Austin Associates and Schooner Estates for making this concert possible.

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presents



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# Fiddle-icious afternoon concert postponed until Nov. 5



The toe-tapping music of Maine's largest fiddle orchestra will be heard in an afternoon concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, at the Franco Center, 46 Cedar Street, Lewiston. Special guests include Erica Brown and Matt Shipman; and Rossby, Elsie and Oliver Arnott. Tickets can be purchased at 207-689-2000 and [www.francocenter.org/shows](http://www.francocenter.org/shows). Submitted photo.

**LEWISTON, ME**—The Franco Center will present the trademark toe-tapping music of Fiddle-icious at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5. The decision to delay the concert by one week came about because of the shelter-in-place orders in Androscoggin

County due to the tragic shootings that have deeply affected the community.

Fiddle-icious is a community-based orchestra whose members are determined to preserve the cultural heritage of Maine's traditional fiddle music, dances, and

songs passed down from Scottish, Irish, Quebecois, and Acadian ancestors.

The members of Fiddle-icious are part of a larger fellowship that strives to bring joy and purpose to all who participate. The orchestra is directed by master fiddler

Don Roy and accompanied by Cindy Roy on piano.

Special guests for this concert include Matt and Erica Brown Shipman, and the sibling act of Rossby, Elsie, and Oliver Arnott.

The audience will hear fiddles, guitars, flutes, banjos, tin whistles, accordions, cellos, violas, mandolins, harps, stand-up bass and other instruments. The orchestra's music is scored for beginner to advanced players, creating a full, rich sound.

Roy and his wife, Cindy grew up in French-Canadian families where music was an integral part of their lives. Fiddle-icious grew out of their desire to share their knowledge with others, foster community through music and keep their musical heritage alive.

In a social media post, Fiddle-icious stated that the 2023 season is: "Our first concert series since 2019 and we can't wait to see all your

smiling faces!"

To learn more about the group, view the 2009 documentary short, "Fiddle-icious – Community of Music," produced by the Salt Institute, at [www.fiddleicious.com](http://www.fiddleicious.com).

Tickets can be purchased through the Franco Center's box office in person from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays or call 207-689-2000. Ticket purchases can also be made online at [www.francocenter.org/shows](http://www.francocenter.org/shows).

Tickets in advance:  
Tier 1 at \$25 and Tier 2 at \$20.

Tickets at the door:  
Tier 1 at \$30 and Tier 2 at \$25.

Doors and cash bar

open at 1 p.m. Concert is at 2 p.m. The Franco Center is at 46 Cedar Street, Lewiston.

"Taste the Music" Volume 17, the 2023 Music Series by Fiddle-icious music CDs will be available for purchase at the concert.

Handicap access is on the Lincoln Street Alley side of the building. Parking is in the mill lot across the street. Additional parking, should the mill lot be full, is in the city-owned Lincoln St. Lot on the corner of Lincoln and Oxford streets; in the parking garage at the corner of Lincoln and Chestnut streets; and in the Lincoln St. Lot across from F.X. Marcotte.

# Retired educators to meet

**AUBURN, ME** -- The Androscoggin Retired Educators' Association will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at Sixth Street Congregational Church at 109 Sixth Street in Auburn, Maine 04210.

The speaker for this meeting will be Barry Law-

son from Bates College. Mr. Lawson will speak on Artificial Intelligence.

Lunch will be served by ladies of the church. The menu will consist of baked chicken with cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, vegetable, dessert and beverage. The cost of the meal is \$12.

Send reservation to Gina Fuller, 36 Elliott Ave, Lewiston, Maine 04240.

AREA meets five times per year: September, October November, March and April. Dues for the year are \$10 for educator and \$6 for non-educator spouse or partner. Those members who are 85 years

or older no longer need to pay dues. You need not have taught in Androscoggin County or even in the State of Maine. All Educators are welcome.

<sup>1</sup>APY = Annual Percentage Yield as of 9/1/23. Rates subject to change without notice. Federally insured by NCUA. Transaction requirements apply, visit [egcu.org/rise](http://egcu.org/rise) for details.



## The Right Priorities

### Lowering Taxes

Mayor Levesque is acutely aware of the importance of reducing taxes. Throughout the past six years, he has successfully limited tax increases to rates below inflation. Furthermore, under his leadership this year, taxes have remained unaltered. Although these efforts have presented challenges, Mayor Levesque’s commitment to fostering development in Auburn’s tax base will ultimately contribute to stabilizing tax rates, enhancing the overall quality of life, and safeguarding crucial city services.



### Quality Education

Mayor Levesque was the first Mayor to take his seat on the School Board in over 20 years, championing educational excellence with tangible outcomes: notably, significant improvements in proficiency scores and a remarkable surge in the graduation rate, soaring from 73% to an impressive 93%. Led the efforts to create Auburn’s and CMMC’s Spring Ahead initiative creating the likelihood that ELHS students can attain an associates degree, or trade certification program upon graduation. Mayor Levesque has also been at the forefront of implementing strategic and efficient education funding, ensuring that Auburn’s taxpayers receive the maximum benefit from their investments in education.

### Economic Development

Under Mayor Levesque’s leadership, Auburn has achieved record-breaking development in 4 out of the past 6 years, positioning the city as a leader in both new growth and high-paying job opportunities within the state. This remarkable expansion of the tax base promises to ensure the long-term sustainability of Auburn for generations to come.

### Attainable Housing

Mayor Levesque is a strong advocate for making housing accessible to everyone. He has championed inclusive zoning, worked to dismantle obstacles, and facilitated partnerships between developers, landowners, and contractors to foster growth in the housing sector.

### Protecting Natural Resources

We cannot have a vibrant city without identifying and protecting the natural resources that are essential to our future. Mayor Levesque is proud of the work done to Protect Lake Auburn.

ote **Jason Levesque**  
**AUBURN’S MAYOR**  
PAID FOR BY LEVESQUE FOR AUBURN

# Learn more about Auburn's architectural treasures

AUBURN, ME -- L/A Senior College and the Auburn Public Library are delighted to welcome Lin Wright to speak about these treasures on November 14. Lin has lived in the area for over 20 years and has worked at USM where she also received her MA

in American and New England Studies. She is retired now but has taught many classes in genealogy at LASC.

As Lin says: "Most of my attraction to architecture is aesthetic and as a window into the broader context of people and

place over time. I connect the object of a residential, commercial or professional building through learning about who designed, built, lived in, worked in, and owned it with the broader place (in this case Auburn) and the changes that occurred over time (1827 to

1914 and beyond)". Her presentation will be an exploration of the building exteriors and the people connected to the Main Street Historic District in Auburn which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. This is a residential district

on parts of Main, Elm and Vine Streets. The earliest house was built in 1826; the most recent built in 1914. Come and explore our past through some of our extant buildings close to home.

Come and enjoy history close to home on No-

vember 14, 2 o'clock in the library's Androscoffin Room at 49 Spring Street.

This program is free and open to the public. To learn more, visit the Events Calendar on Auburn Public Library's website -- <https://www.auburnpubliclibrary.org/events/upcoming>

## Film screening with Community Connect Maine

Join us for a showing of

### invisible:

**Personal stories from the front lines of disability**

A screening of short videos by and about people living with disability in Maine, followed by a conversation with the filmmakers.

**Thursday, November 9th**  
**5:30-7:30pm**

COMMUNITY CONNECT ME

Lewiston PUBLIC LIBRARY

LEWISTON, ME -- On Thursday, November 9th, the Lewiston Public Library will host Community Connect Maine for a screening of their short video collection entitled Invisible: Personal stories from the front lines of disability. This free, public program will take place from 5:30-7:30pm in Callahan Hall.

Invisible focuses on the lived experience of Mainers with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families and caregivers as told in their own voices. Following the screening will be an opportunity for the au-

dience to ask questions of the filmmakers and some of the subjects as well.

This ongoing, multi-year project was developed, with grant funding from the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council, by Community Connect Maine, a non-profit organization dedicated to the vision that all people have the support they need, when they need it, to live a full life in their communities of choice. A barrier to achieving that goal is that many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are invisible in their community. Community

Connect Maine hopes to overcome that barrier by helping people in the disability community share their stories.

Registration is recommended for this event. Register online at <https://communityconnectme.org/events-and-workshops>. Light refreshments will be available.

The Lewiston Public Library is located downtown at 200 Lisbon Street at the corner of Pine Street. More information about this event is available by contacting the Lewiston Public Library at 513-3135 or [LPLReference@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:LPLReference@lewistonmaine.gov).

## Welcome, Morgan Lee

LEWISTON/AUBURN, ME (September 15, 2023) -- The Maine Music Society is thrilled to welcome our new accompanist, Morgan Lee, as we begin our Golden Jubilee Season. Morgan comes to us with impressive credentials and is a great fit for our organization. Morgan Lee, DMA, has built a dynamic career as a soloist, collaborative pianist, and teacher. She recently graduated from the University of Connecticut with her Doctor of Musical Arts in piano performance, where she studied with Angelina Gadeliya. Morgan also holds a Master of Music from Mannes School of Music and a Bachelor of Arts from Brown University. She has participated in various music festivals in the US and abroad and has performed recitals in New York City, Italy, Spain, France, and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Morgan has nearly ten years of private teaching experience and has served as an adjunct faculty member at Eastern Connecticut State University, piano faculty at the Bronx Conservatory of Music, and a teaching fellow at Mannes School of Music. Morgan currently serves as staff accompanist at the University of Southern Maine Osher School of Music, teaches piano at Stone Coast Music, and regularly performs as principal keyboardist with the Portland Symphony Orchestra.

Please join us in giv-



Morgan Lee

ing Morgan a warm welcome as she begins her new role.

For more information about Morgan visit her website: <https://www.morganleepianist.com>.

The Maine Music Society Chorale is an auditioned, mixed-voice community chorus based in Lewiston-Auburn. Led by Maine Music Society Artistic Director Dr. Richard Nickerson, the 70-plus voice chorale has distinguished itself with an ever-evolving level of excellence and profes-

sionalism. Founded as the Androscoffin Chorale in 1972, the group's diverse repertoire reflects its desire to advance the cultural heritage of Central Maine, to explore a broad range of musical genres — contemporary, musical theatre, classical, opera, oratorio — and to provide its members with opportunities to experience their love of singing.

For more information about The Maine Music Society, visit their website: [www.mainemusicsociety.org](http://www.mainemusicsociety.org).

## Turning spare space into a thriving community gallery

Guest column by Briana Hilton

LEWISTON, AUBURN, ME (September 29, 2023) -- Lewiston-Auburn has a relatively mature population in terms of age. As the Sun Journal highlights, planning for later life has become a key step for many residents, and the community as a whole has a responsibility to provide support and steps to care for this invaluable section of society. The city and its community have already taken significant strides towards this with the decision of the referendum

at Lewiston High School creating specific room for adult and senior learning, and there are now spaces being outlined for the use of the entire community in the future. With that in mind, it's worth considering what can make a community space a worthwhile area, starting with considering creativity.

Introducing creativity

A shared communal space needs to have a purpose - especially one that places a focus on that community and its adult citizens. That purpose can

be communicated through its creative design, and this nod is especially important if the area is designed for creative uses. Consider, for instance, the use of sculptures, both metal and otherwise.

As ArchDaily notes, sculptures shape urban areas. As well as acting as a focal point, they can reflect and present the values of the town and its people. Some of the most famous sculptures do exactly this. Take, for instance, Barbara Hepworth's Summer Dance, which reflects the cultural and historical ties

of its host towns of Cornwall to the ancient links of the region. Artwork should mean something. As it happens, the industrial and farming history of Lewiston-Auburn is a great basis for the use of metal sculptures. Twisted and sculpted metals can easily provide a fantastic icon which harks back to the golden era of the twin cities, and will be a focal artistic point for an area with real purpose.

Making it utilitarian

It's important that any plans have an edge to them that will lend itself to the educational and

vocational development of adults. Given, a public gallery and community space will already provide the community with some big benefits, ranging from the active space to be used through to the creativity such a space fosters. However, it must also be there for active use and cannot simply be something to look at.

A simple way to manage this is through providing ample sitting space - both conventional (in the forms of benches and such) and improved (such as stone steps, plinths and

fountains). This is another great area to get creative with. Dezeen highlights one sunken garden design used in Los Angeles, where shade can be taken from the sun and a distinctly green aspect given to any learning or other engagement. This is a great way to provide inspiration and make an area feel fully sheltered.

Ensuring inclusivity

Lewiston-Auburn is one of the most creatively dense places anywhere in the country, defined by the amount of public viewable

See Gallery, page 16

# MaineCF establishes Lewiston-Auburn Area Response Fund

PORTLAND & ELLSWORTH, ME — The Maine Community Foundation (MaineCF) has established the Lewiston-Auburn Area Response Fund in response to the devastating mass shooting events on Oct. 25 in Lewiston, Maine. The fund will collect and allocate donations to support victims of Maine's worst gun tragedy on record and the organiza-

tional efforts that will help heal the city. Adilah Muhammad, MaineCF board chair and Lewiston resident said, "We are heartbroken at this unspeakable violence, right here at home. The Maine Community Foundation is stepping up to help ensure that the community has the resources to respond to this terrible tragedy." "We are in grief, dis-



belief, and shock," said MaineCF President and CEO Deborah Ellwood. "This fund provides an avenue for those who wish to

help those impacted in the Lewiston-Auburn area. We must support each other and care for one another in this difficult time for our

state." Donations may be made to victims and survivors or to the broader recovery effort at MaineCF.org or by mail to: Lewiston-Auburn Area Response Fund, Maine Community Foundation, 245 Main St., Ellsworth, ME 04605. Donations to the Lewiston-Auburn Area

Response Fund will be distributed with deep community guidance, including from MaineCF's statewide board, engagement by MaineCF's Androscoggin County Committee and community steering committees. MaineCF administrative fees will be waived and 100% of donations will go to support victims and the community

# Feed the First Fundraiser to provide needed relief



LEWISTON, ME — There are no words that can ever truly express what our community has experienced in the last few days.

Maine credit unions join our neighbors in mourning the family and friends we have lost and those who are recovering from injury.

As we try to make sense of this tragedy, we are thankful for the tireless, committed work of local, state, and federal law enforcement, as well as the doctors, nurses, and emergency services personnel for helping us through this difficult time. First responders are always there for us, and we want to be there for them.

Credit Unions were created to support their communities and live by the philosophy of people-helping-people. During this challenging time, local Credit Unions are coming together to support our community. "We commend our local restaurants; they have been doing an amazing job preparing meals for our first responders and

other community members in need," said Mark Samson, President of Dirigo Federal Credit Union. "Credit Unions will be collecting funds to further support our local restaurants so they can continue their current efforts."

Credit Unions will be accepting donations through the Maine Credit Unions' Campaign for Ending Hunger. By donating money to Maine Credit Unions' Campaign for Ending Hunger's Lewiston Relief initiative, the Lewiston-Auburn (L/A) Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce will work with local restaurants to provide much-needed food to first responders in need. Monies may also be used to support local organizations

providing food assistance.

To make a donation, visit: <https://campaignforendinghunger.org/lewiston-relief/>

Any funds that people can donate is a blessing, and every dollar to the Feed the First fundraiser will help us all. By aiding our first responders—our community—we can hopefully, privately, and publicly, move forward.

Credit Unions are a not-for-profit financial institutions that accept deposits, makes loans, and provide an array of other financial services and products. The following Credit Unions are organizing the efforts, along with the Maine Credit Union League and The LA Metro Chamber of

Commerce: Sabattus Regional Credit Union, Oxford Federal Credit Union, Otis Federal Credit Union, Milestones Federal Credit Union, Maine Family Federal Credit Union, Lisbon Community Federal Credit Union, Great Falls Federal Credit Union, Five County Federal Credit Union, Dirigo Federal Credit Union, Community Credit Union, and Central Maine Federal Credit Union.

Since 1990, the Maine Credit Unions' Campaign for Ending Hunger has raised over \$12.3 million, including over \$1,000,000 in food and cash contributions in 2022. All donations to Maine Credit Unions' Campaign for Ending Hunger are tax deductible.

# Maine among highest COPD rates in the country

PORTLAND, ME — Today, the American Lung Association in Maine released the COPD State Briefs, which include data about prevention, diagnosis, health outcomes and treatment of the disease for all 50 states and Washington, D.C. The briefs also highlight the burden of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) across the U.S., highlighting the states with the highest COPD rates and opportunities to improve the burden of the disease. Maine

is one of 11 states with the highest COPD prevalence rate.

COPD, which includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema, is a long-term lung disease that makes it hard to breathe. There is currently no cure for COPD, but the disease is treatable. Nationally, approximately 5% of adults or 12.5 million Americans are living with COPD. In Maine: 99,861 of adults have been diagnosed with COPD

The COPD prevalence rate is 9%

888 people die each year from COPD

Annual cost of COPD treatment is \$154 million

There are 92,660 lost days of work each year due to COPD

"Unfortunately, here in Maine, our residents face a higher burden of COPD, but together we can work to help prevent the disease and support people living with the disease to live longer and more active lives," said Lance Boucher, director

of advocacy for the American Lung Association. "The new COPD state briefs also examine key indicators for COPD in Maine, such as air quality, tobacco use, education, income level and vaccination rate, which can help us determine where to focus our prevention efforts and help those most impacted by the disease."

Maine is one of eleven states that have the highest COPD rates and highest burden in the country—Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee and West Virginia. State prevalence rates range from 3.7% in Hawaii to 13.6% in West



Virginia.

The goal of the COPD State Briefs is to raise awareness for COPD and empower public health and healthcare professionals to take actionable steps to prevent the onset of illness, reduce health inequities, set goals for earlier diagnosis and ensure clinical guidelines are used to manage and treat COPD. For Maine, the Lung Association recommends the following actions to reduce the burden of COPD:

Use a validated

COPD screening tool for people who may be at risk of COPD or reporting symptoms.

Confirm a COPD diagnosis using spirometry, especially in primary care.

Use evidence-based tobacco prevention and cessation services.

Promote recommended vaccinations.

Recommend pulmonary rehabilitation, COPD education and a COPD Action Plan.

The COPD State Briefs were created with support by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Learn more and view the COPD State Briefs at [Lung.org/COPD-briefs](http://Lung.org/COPD-briefs).



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**Nov 4, Dec 2, Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4**  
**WESTBROOK** -- Prides Corner Community Church, 235 Pride St. Bean Supper \$10 per person: Two kinds of baked beans, mac and cheese, ham, coleslaw, bread and brownie. Eat in at 5:00PM or Take Out from 4:30-5:30PM. Call 207-415-9260 to reserve your individual meal today.

**Nov 4**  
**BATH** -- 7:30 PM -- 9:30 PM the Chocolate Church presents Yellow Brick Road (Elton John Tribute). Ticket Prices: \$22 ADV | \$25 DOS. There is no other performer who looks and sounds so much like Elton John, nor any tribute act that provides the experience of being at an actual Elton John concert, the way Gerald Brann and Yellow Brick Road does. Get your tickets at chocolatechurcharts.org

**Nov 6**  
**AUBURN** -- Learn About the Job Corps 11 AM-1 PM at Auburn Public Library. Stop by the Teen Space to learn about the Job Corps, a residential career training program looking to connect with youth on developing their skills for future careers.

**Nov 10**  
**BATH** -- 7:30 PM -- 9:30 PM the Chocolate Church presents Peter Yarrow (RESCHEDULED).

# Calendar

Send your submissions to the Editor. More online.

Ticket Prices: \$38 ADV | \$42 DOS. Known for his songwriting, sound quality, and commitment to excellence, Peter Yarrow, along with Noel Paul Stookey and Mary Travers, made up the popular folk group Peter, Paul & Mary. Get your tickets at chocolatechurcharts.org

**Nov 11**  
**TURNER CENTER** -- Christmas Craft Fair Saturday, Nov. 11th from 8 to 1at the Universalist Church, Turner Center, across from the Gazebo. Crafts and Attic Treasures. Lunch available.

**Nov 13, 27**  
**AUBURN** -- Anime & Manga Club 4 PM-5 PM at Auburn Public Library. Discuss and watch your favorite anime, or share manga with the rest of the group, while enjoying some tasty snacks.

**Nov 14, 21**  
**AUBURN** -- Craft Club 4 PM-5 PM at Auburn Public Library. Come hang out in the Teen Space and work on your current craft project, or start something new with materials we provide! Snacks included.

**Nov 15**  
**AUBURN** -- Dungeons & Dragons 3 PM-5 PM at Auburn Public Library. Come to the Teen

Space for a seafaring D&D adventure in a fantasy world! Open to beginners and experienced players alike. Come with a character sheet (level 1-3) or use one that we provide.

**Nov 17**  
**BATH** -- 7:30 PM -- 9:30 PM the Chocolate Church presents Primo Cubano (Latin). Ticket Prices: \$20 ADV | \$22 DOS. Primo Cubano plays traditional Cuban dance music called "SON" dating back to the turn of the 20th Century. Get your tickets at chocolatechurcharts.org

**Nov 18**  
**GORHAM** -- Christmas Craft Fair 9:00am - 2:00pm

White Rock Friendship Club and the White Rock Grange #380 will host our annual Christmas Craft Fair. Over 30 crafters offering jewelry, sewn & knitted items, home decor and much more!

**Nov 19**  
**SABATTUS** -- Our Lady of the Rosary Christmas craft fair on Saturday, November 18th from 9 to 3. The fair will be located in the lower level of the church at 131 High St. in Sabattus. We'll have around 30 crafters and vendors, a basket raffle, and a

bake sale. Come join us.

**Nov 25**  
**BATH** -- 7:30 PM -- 9:30 PM the Chocolate Church presents Pat Colwell & The Soul Sensations Motown Christmas (R&B, Holiday). Ticket Prices: \$20 ADV | \$22 DOS. A beloved tradition here at the Chocolate Church Arts Center! Pat Colwell and the Soul Sensations bring down the house with a powerful mix of Motown and Memphis soul music that's guaranteed to get the party started. Get your tickets at chocolatechurcharts.org

**Jan 20, 21**  
**LEWISTON, TOPSHAM** -- "Song & Dance Music from Around the World" Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center, Lewiston; Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024, 2:30 p.m. - Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham

**Mar 23, 24**  
**LEWISTON, TOPSHAM** -- "A New Artistic Mélange" - Emily Isaacson, Guest Conductor Saturday, Mar. 23, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center, Lewiston; Sunday, Mar. 24, 2024, 2:30 p.m. - Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham

**May 18, 19**  
**LEWISTON, TOPSHAM** -- "Cityscape, Seascape, Soundscape" Saturday, May 18, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - Franco Center, Lewiston ; Sunday, May 19, 2024, 2:30 p.m. - Ori-

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**LEWISTON** -- PROGRAMS FOR HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES, held the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Monday 11:15am-12:30pm starting March 6th, 2023 at the Lewiston Public Library Children's Department

Homeschool families, are you looking for opportunities to have fun and socialize with other homeschool families? LPL will be offering activities for homeschool families in the Children's Department the first three Mondays of each month from 11:15am-12:30pm. The activities will be a Homeschool Video Game Social on March 6th, a Homeschool Lego Club and Curriculum Swap on March 13th, and a Homeschool Storytime and Craft on March 20th.

This program is free and recommended for ho-

meschool families with children of all ages. No registration is required. Contact info. 513-3133, LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov

**2nd and 4th Wednesday each month**  
**LEWISTON** -- MAKE ART WITH ARTVAN 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month, 3:30PM starting September 13th

ArtVan will be providing hands-on creative art program in the Children's Department of the Lewiston Public Library for children ages 5-14 (ages 5-8 must be accompanied by an adult) for self-expression, personal growth, and fun.

Free. All art supplies will be provided. 513-3133; www.LPLonline.org

Send all items for What's Going On to the Editor. Deadline is Friday by five.



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## The Lewiston Raytheon Story Part 2:

# The Raytheon experience: Before, during and after

Raytheon's March 1, 1963, decision to leave Lewiston disappointed many area leaders and residents, but what happened before 1963 better prepared both cities to press forward with their economic diversity strategies.

For Auburn, they witnessed how Lewiston's 1952 efforts to create a city industrial development department and citizen-led Lewiston Development Corporation attracted Geiger Brothers and another eleven new industries to the city by 1955 (with help from the new Maine Turnpike). In response, Auburn citizens created the Auburn Business Development Corporation (ABDC) in January 1955, and the city hired Al Tavares, its first Industrial Development Director (IDD), in June 1955.

Those first development moves encountered some challenges: changing the city IDD position to one reporting to the ABDC in April 1956; Tavares' resignation in September 1956; and a new IDD in October 1956, followed by his resignation months later. In

September 1957, the two cities considered sharing the position but abandoned the idea a month later, with Auburn hiring a new IDD in April 1958 who resigned in March 1961. In December 1961, the ABDC would lose the position after City Manager Woodbury Brackett hired city employee D. Dwight Dogherty. Development responsibilities were assumed by Brackett, with Dogherty doing the business recruitment "leg work" and serving as "administrative assistant," effectively becoming the state's first assistant city manager.

Auburn would navigate the IDD challenges while experiencing a significant turning point in 1960. The city-ABDC collaboration created the first industrial park on Minot Avenue, built their first venture building, and attracted Irving Rodman's Dane-T-Bits company's new warehouse off Hotel Road (abutting the future Rodman Road). By 1961, the Dane-T-Bits warehouse changed to a 55,000-square-foot building that would bake all

Dane-T-Bits products. Like Lewiston's Raytheon plant, the project became a seminal development moment for Auburn. The "Cookieville U.S.A." facility opened in January 1962 to significant fanfare around the state, baking over 1,000,000 cookies per week. Regrettably, the company closed the facility in March 1964, a year after Raytheon announced its closing, but was rescued by H.P. Hood and Sons.

Irving Rodman valiantly kept the plant operating until its final June 1966 closure, but the impact of his plant's arrival in Auburn became the genesis for Auburn's economic development resurgence. Between 1964 and 1967, the city attracted three national companies to the area: Pioneer Plastics in April 1963 (located across Rodman Road); General Electric, who bought the Dane-T-Bits building in January 1967; and Tampax, Inc.'s purchase of Lewiston-Auburn airport property for a new plant in February 1967.

For Lewiston, May 7, 1965, marked the end of

Sam Michael's eight-year run as IDD director, a resignation driven by a new Oxford County job and his connection to the May 25, 1965, Ali-Liston fight in Lewiston. Two months after the globally covered Ali fight and Michael's two-year effort to find a Raytheon tenant, a July 23, 1965, article about a possible buyer revealed the city's first genuine opportunity to sell the building. The prospective customer was Dimitri Grabbe and his Maine Research Corporation company. Following Grabbe's failed negotiations, RCA purchased the building in January 1966 and closed operations in March 1972 after Liberty Mutual became the owner in January 1972.

Grabbe's failure became a 1966 opportunity to build a new plant in Lisbon, Maine. He opened the new 74,000-square-foot plant in April 1968 that went bankrupt in 1971. North American Rockwell bought the property and reopened the "Maine Electronics" plant in July 1972, which closed in July 1989. Today, the former Raythe-

on and Maine Research buildings connected to Dimitri Grabbe are no longer functioning businesses. The Raytheon/RCA/Liberty Mutual building is now vacant, and the once-contaminated Maine Electronics site remains an empty lot. Nevertheless, Grabbe found his place in technology history, securing 500 electronic patents that significantly contributed to the U.S. space program.

Three years after Raytheon's 1959 Lewiston selection, the California-based Fairchild Semiconductor purchased a South Portland venture building constructed by the Greater Portland Area Development Council's 'Area Development Council' (ADC) in 1960. The venture building, the largest in New England, in combination with an ADC-commissioned study of the Greater Portland area market and labor pool, secured Fairchild's commitment to locate their first out-of-state silicon semiconductor/transistor manufacturing facility in Maine. The new plant opened on January 1, 1963, two months before

Raytheon's closing announcement.

In Part 4 of my Raytheon video series, I make the case that Raytheon's 1959 decision to reject Portland in favor of Lewiston may have contributed to the ADC's 1960 efforts that influenced Fairchild's Maine selection. Without Raytheon's presence in Lewiston, I submit that the ADC may have delayed its 1960 actions, possibly missing an opportunity for their South Portland venture building to become the world's longest-operating semiconductor/chip manufacturing facility still in operation today. But Raytheon arrived, the ADC did build it, and Fairchild came, and it all happened without a Portland IDD that did not come until 1963.

*Phil Nadeau has written about L-A's history in his book "The Unlikelihood of it All - Part 1" and now produces a free YouTube history channel called "Deconstructing Lewiston-Auburn and Maine History." See Episodes 1 through 4 for more Raytheon story details.*

### Gallery

*Continued from page 11*

artwork and creations in and around the city. You might not know this, however, if you have any form of motor disability; according to Bates University, the accessibility that enables

everyone to view these works of art is simply not there. It is imperative that any new developments put accessibility first.

There are simple principles to adhere to in ensuring that public spaces are accessible. These

are providing wheelchair ramps; ensuring pathways are wide enough for the use of mobility aids; and making sure that pathways are level. Despite this, it can be quite easy to get this wrong. Using US federal and UN guidelines

is important, as these will provide the proper widths and requirements for mobility aids and safety measures. This won't just aid people with mobility impairments, either, as those hard of hearing or sight will stand to benefit from

inclusive spaces.

Pulling all of this together will ensure that any new public space is fit for the needs of older generations. They have a right to access education and learning, too, but these spaces are not

always constructed in a way that's perfect for them. The design of these spaces needs to be carefully managed, of course, but that's entirely achievable while still creating a relaxing and creative area.



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